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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE  
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PRM/ANE FOR ADRIENNE NUTZMAN, EUR/NCE FOR ALEX TRATENSEK

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: CZECHS STRETCHED BY AFGHANISTAN AND UNLIKELY TO DO  
MORE ON IRAQ REFUGEES

REF: STATE 30028

(SBU) Czech MFA desk officer for Iraq, Sylva Sulaimanova, noted that the Czechs provided over two million crowns (roughly 200,000 USD) to the UN High Commission for Refugees last year. Unfortunately, she indicated that it would be quite difficult for the Czechs to provide the same level of support this year, given their limited resources and their substantial additional commitments in Afghanistan (Note: In March 2008, the Czechs established a PRT in Lowgar province in Afghanistan. The GOCR has substantially increased its funding for infrastructure development in Afghanistan and more than doubled its troops on the ground. End Note.) While the Czechs share our concerns about the growing number of Iraqi refugees in Jordan and Syria as well as internally displaced persons, Sulaimanova noted that the Czechs have a small number (in the low hundreds) of refugees settled here in the Czech Republic and that any GOCR funds would be used to address the needs of these refugees first.  
Graber